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1. The origin of the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania (VLIK):

a. The provisional National Government that was set up by Lithuanian insurgents at the outbreak of the Russo-German war and charged with implementing the re-establishing of the independent and sovereign State of Lithuania was suppressed by the Nazis in August 1941. Resistance against the new occupier was carried out, at first, by separate underground movements. The coordination of their activities was achieved in due course by an agreement between the traditional political parties and the newly formed resistance movements. As a result, the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania (Vyriausias Lietuvos Islaisvinimo Komitetas, abbr. VLIK) was created in October 1943. It issued its first declaration to the Lithuanian people on 16 February 1944, the 16th anniversary of the declaration of Lithuania's independence.

b. In the spring of 1944, most of the Supreme Committee's members were arrested by the Gestapo and taken to prisons and concentration camps in Germany. Their work was continued by their deputies. After the liberation of the members by the advancing U. S. Army, the Supreme Committee resumed its work in Turzburg, Germany, in the spring of 1945. Since October 1945, the Headquarters of the Supreme Committee has been in Pfullingen, French Zone of Occupation, Germany. In November 1946, an Executive Council was formed by the Supreme Committee. (The former may be regarded as *sui generis* Government; the latter, as parliament.) In July 1948, a joint meeting took place in Baden-Baden, Germany, of the representatives of the Supreme Committee and the Executive Council with the plenipotentiaries sent by the Headquarters of

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the Resistance Movement in Lithuania. The activities of the Supreme Committee were praised by the country's representatives; the Supreme Committee was once more empowered by the fighting people of Lithuania to act as the supreme political authority abroad to work toward the liberation of Lithuania.

- e. As a result of internal deliberations with a view to achieving the most efficient organization of liberation activities, the Executive Council was formed within the Supreme Committee itself in August 1949. The President of the Supreme Committee is, at the same time, the President of the Executive Council.
- 2. The Supreme Committee is composed of the following parties and their respective leaders:
 - a. The Lithuanian Christian-Democratic Party, represented by Msgr. Mykolas KRUPAVICIUS. At present he is President of both the Supreme Committee and the Executive Council.
 - b. The Peasant Populist Union of Lithuania, represented by Bronius BIELIUKAS-BAČIULIS.
 - c. The Lithuanian Front, represented by Professor Juozas BRAZAITIS.
 - d. The Social-Democratic Party of Lithuania, represented by Professor Juozas KAMINSKAS.
 - e. The Lithuanian National Union, represented by Paliys GAJDZIUNAS.
 - f. The Lithuanian Farmers' Union, represented by Dr. Petras ZARVELIS.
 - g. The Lithuanian Federation of Labor, represented by Vytautas VAITIMKUNAS.
 - h. The Union of Combatants for the Liberty of Lithuania, represented by Mečys VALIUKENAS.
 - i. The Lithuanian Unity Movement, represented by Jonas KAVAIUNAS.
 - j. The Lithuanian Farmers' Party, represented by Vaclovas SIDZIKAVSKAS.
- 3. The Executive Council is formed from the following members of the Supreme Committee:
 - a. Msgr. Mykolas KRUPAVICIUS, President, and head of the office for fostering the national potentiality.
 - b. Bronius BIELIUKAS-BAČIULIS, Vice-President, and Head of the Finance Service.
 - c. Professor Juozas BRAZAITIS, Vice-President, and Head of the Service for Foreign Affairs.

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d. Professor Juozas KABILSKAS, Vice-President and Head of the Service for Planning the Country's Economic Recovery.

e. Balsys GAIDŽIŪNAS, Secretary, and Head of the Information Service.

4. Party Characteristics: An accurate assessment of the real political strength of the above-mentioned parties is at present extremely difficult, if possible at all. First, because the last democratic election in Lithuania took place as long ago as 1926 and many shiftings in Lithuanian public opinion have occurred since then. Second, because the two extremely hard and devastating occupations have profoundly affected the political thinking of the people. One of the effects has been the spontaneous emergence of the so-called resistance movements (the Lithuanian Front, the Union of Combatants, etc.), which not only organized the people's resistance against the consecutive occupiers but also claimed their part in political leadership. However, the important fact has been established that the Lithuanian people at home are, in their present distress, not in the least concerned with party differences. They are unanimous in their ardent desire to get rid of the deadly occupation. From this viewpoint, they request, and fully approve of, the unification of all forces for common action. The parties constituting the Supreme Committee have agreed to concentrate their efforts on the liberation of the country and to put aside, for the time being, their factional aspirations.

a. The Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party was predominant in Lithuania (in coalition with the Lithuanian Farmers' Union and the Lithuanian Federation of Labor) until 1926. In general, its basic principles are the same as those of Christian Democratic Parties abroad; however, it had proved more progressive in the social field. Under the leadership of KRUPAVICIUS, it had carried out a radical agrarian reform soon after World War I, a daring and revolutionary undertaking at that time. The Lithuanian Farmers' Union was more conservative though based on the same Christian principles of social justice. The Lithuanian Federation of Labor, also of Christian allegiance, had originally exerted considerable influence over the working class, but lost it, to some extent, to the Social-Democrats in the election of 1926. The strength of these three Christian parties consisted mainly in the support given to them by the rural population.

b. The Peasant Populist Union of Lithuania was the most powerful liberal party, with marked anti-clerical leanings. It emerged the largest single party out of the election of 1926, and came to power in coalition with the Social Democrats and the Lithuanian Farmers' Party (a small right-wing liberal party). Following some Communist-staged disturbances which the Government failed to settle, it was overthrown in a coup d'état in December 1926. The party's members continued to hold most of the key positions in the country's economy. The Party's

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strength lay mainly with the small bourgeoisie. The Farmers' Party was supported by some intellectual circles. The Social Democrats sought the support of industrial workers and exerted some influence over a group of small-holding peasants.

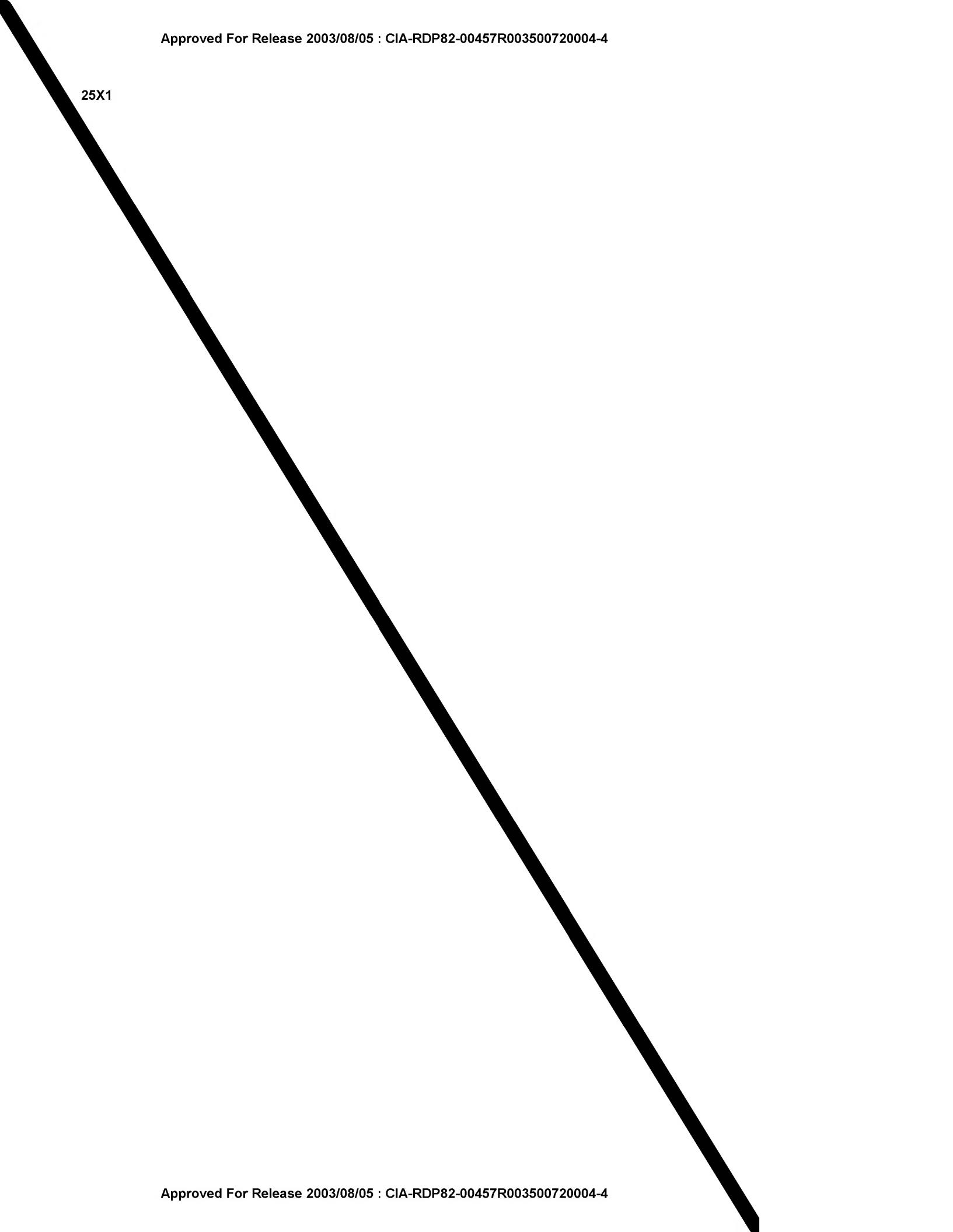
- c. The National Union, a negligible party before 1926, became comparatively powerful following the coup d'etat of 1926, when a single-party regime was gradually introduced. It was mainly supported by the country's bureaucracy. Since 1940, the Party has renounced its authoritarian principles.
- d. The Lithuanian Front evolved in 1940-1941 from the clandestine anti-Soviet movement known as the Lithuanian Activist Front, which organized the revolt of June 1941. The Lithuanian Activist Front originally was comprised of freedom fighters of various political and ideological shadings. Later, in 1941 and after, liberal-minded activists left the Movement and founded the Union of Combatants for the Liberty of Lithuania. The Lithuanian Activist Front itself was reorganized as the Lithuanian Front. Most of its leaders are young Catholic intellectuals bent on adapting the country's political and social life to modern requirements. They proclaim the principle of cultural autonomy which would exclude political grouping according to ideological and religious beliefs.
- e. In the Union of Combatants for the Liberty of Lithuania, left-wing liberals were originally predominant. At present it has aligned itself with the National Union. Both the Lithuanian Front and the Union of Combatants for the Liberty of Lithuania took a leading part in the Lithuanian resistance movement during the German occupation of Lithuania. Many of their leaders and members fell victims to Gestapo persecution.
- f. The Lithuanian Unity Movement was mainly an intellectual movement. At present it has aligned itself with the Lithuanian Front. The Lithuanian Federation of Labor has also done so.

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6. Deriving its authority from the political will of the Lithuanian people, the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania has never considered itself a refugee organization. However, it has maintained close contact with the Lithuanian refugees through their organization, the Lithuanian Refugee Community, and has been recognized and supported by all Lithuanians throughout the world as the supreme political authority and the true voice of the Lithuanian people. The Supreme Committee's collaboration with Lithuanian Legations (in Washington, London, Paris, the Vatican, and South America) has always been smooth and efficient. The question whether the Executive Council of the Supreme Committee is to become, in due time, a Government-in-exile, has so far been left undecided. It is up to the Supreme Committee and the Ministers Plenipotentiary to reach a joint decision in this matter.

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